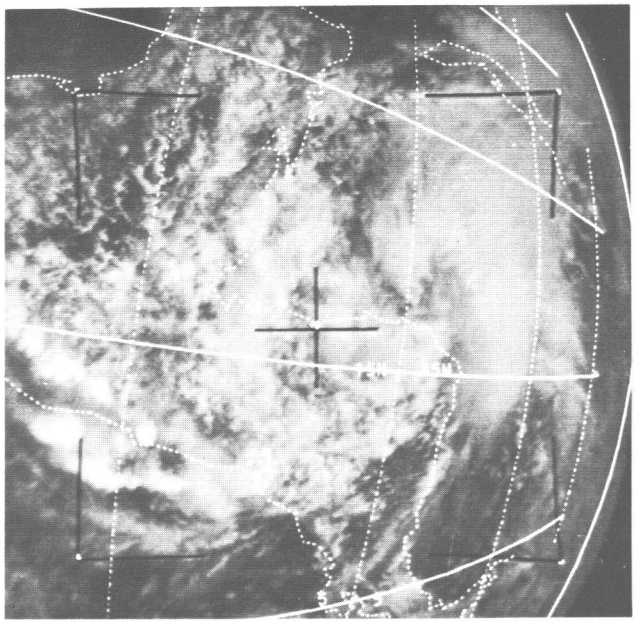
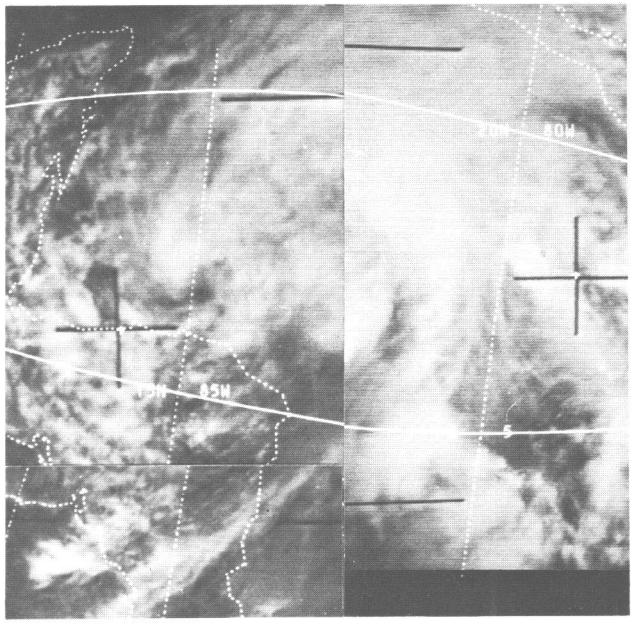
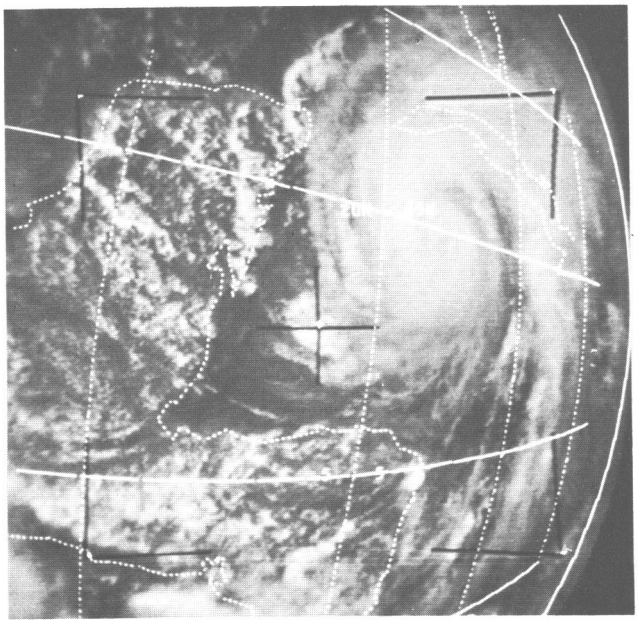
PICTURE OF THE MONTH



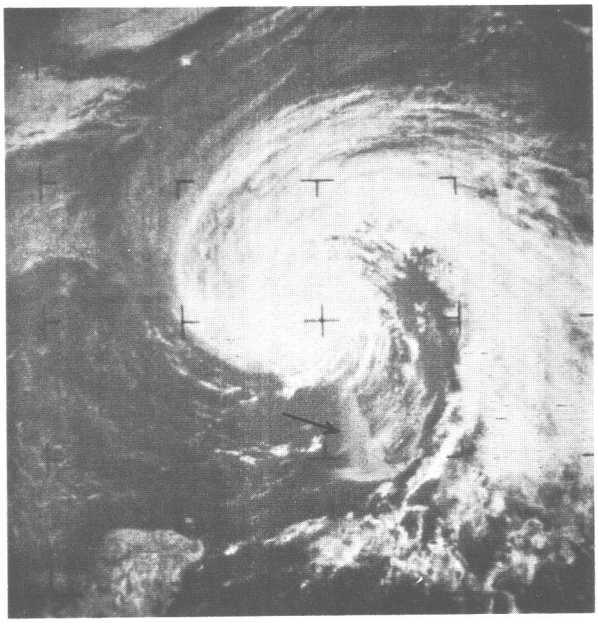
(a) ESSA–1, Pass 1743, Camera 1, Frame 7, June 4, 1966, 1943 GMT.



(b) ESSA–1, Pass 1757, composite of three photos, June 5, 1966, approximately 1908 GMT.



(c) ESSA–1, Pass 1786, Camera 1, Frame 6, June 7, 1966, 1938 GMT.



(d) Nimbus II, Pass 338, APT, June 9, 1966, 1641 GMT.

The photos of hurricane Alma, the unusually early tropical cyclone of the 1966 Atlantic season, give the most complete satellite coverage yet obtained of the life history of an individual tropical storm. (a) and (b), taken on June 4 and 5, show the large cloudy area having a crude spiral configuration associated with the developing depression in the northwestern Caribbean Sea. Highest surface winds at the time of (b) were approximately 30 kt.

(c) shows the developed hurricane moving slowly northward toward western Cuba. Two days later (d) the storm center was nearing the Florida Panhandle, with a large shield of spiral bands extending to the Carolinas and far out over the Atlantic. The coastlines of southern Florida, Yucatan, and western Louisiana are visible.

Of interest in (d) is the unusually reflective water (see arrow) adjacent to the west coast of southern Florida. It is not known whether this was caused by foaming surf in the shallow waters, or whether it represents light colored sediment or other material stirred up by the passage of the storm.